



Marilyn Faye St. Germain

February 11, 1934 - May 23, 2024

Marilyn (Cunningham) St. Germain, age 90, passed away on May 23, 2024 in the Traverse City farm home she was raised in. She was lovingly supported by her family and her Hospice team.

Marilyn Cunningham brought abundant joy to Lawrence Cunningham and Alyce Lambert-Cunningham on February 11, 1934. Alyce bragged that Marilyn sang before she walked. Marilyn experienced a lifelong love for singing and appreciating music.

Marilyn graduated from Traverse City Central High School in 1952. She was active in Choir and Drama in school and loved performing. For decades, Marilyn joyfully participated in choirs in her church, with Sweet Adelines, or performed in her town's theater productions.

Following high school, Marilyn moved to Flint for a job with Michigan Bell. One night, in a local bar, she met her love - John St. Germain. They married in three months, on Marilyn's 22nd birthday. John and Marilyn were married 57 years; John preceded Marilyn in death. Recently, Marilyn said, "I miss John". When asked what she missed the most, she replied, "Making out".

Marilyn was also preceded in death by her parents, her sisters: Carolyn Cunningham Janousek, Sharon Cunningham LaMarche, and Lois Marie Cunningham. Marilyn's daughter's death (Mari-Ann Birdsong) broke Marilyn's heart and she spoke of her daughter almost daily. Many other family members, loved ones, and dear friends passed away over the years. Marilyn's vascular dementia eventually kept her from recalling the pain of those

heartbreaking moments and maybe that's all that vascular dementia is good for.

Marilyn is survived by her four sons: John (Jean) St. Germain, Jerome (Johanna) St. Germain, Christopher (Mel) St. Germain, and Matthew (Jenee) St. Germain - one daughter: Caron (Jim) Alpers - and one son-in-law, Alfred Birdsong.

An element of Marilyn remains in her 13 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. They are her continuation. Her nieces and nephews also carry on the Cunningham Girls' legacy. Marilyn fondly recalled singing in harmony with her sisters and later with her sisters' children. Marilyn loved to sing harmony - the part of contrast. It's now her time to sing the melody - the Angels' Choir has been waiting for their chorister.

Marilyn's family thanks everyone who spent time with her, called, sent cards, offered support and kindness, and prayed for her. We appreciate you.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated Saturday, June 15, 2024, 10:00 am at St. Michael Catholic Church, Grand Ledge by Father James Eisele. Rite of Committal will follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Grand Ledge. Visitation will be Friday from 6-8:00 pm at the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge and Saturday at the church from 9:30-10:00 am. Memorial contributions may be given to the St. Michael School Endowment Fund, 345 Edwards Street, Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837 (<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/Giving/stm345273/SCHOOLK8>). Share your memories and condolences online at www.holihanatkin.com

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

299 Halbert Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 14. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home and Cremation Services
406 N Bridge Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Visitation

JUN 15. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Michael Catholic Church
345 Edwards Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Funeral Mass

JUN 15. 10:00 AM (ET)

Saint Michael Catholic Church
345 Edwards Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Tribute Wall

FM

“ I remember Marilyn fondly. Her family remains in my prayers.

Fr Bob McGraw - June 15, 2024 at 02:18 PM

JN

“ John, Sonia, Zach, Alyssa, and Nina planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marilyn Faye St. Germain.

John, Sonia, Zach, Alyssa, and Nina - June 14, 2024 at 07:38 AM

JN

“ John, Sonia, Zach, Alyssa, and Nina purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Marilyn Faye St. Germain.



John, Sonia, Zach, Alyssa, and Nina - June 14, 2024 at 07:38 AM

MB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marlyce Bursch - June 12, 2024 at 09:00 PM

MB

“Marilyn joined the funeral choir at St. Michael at its beginning. Eventually that group also became the choir for the 4:30 Mass. Marilyn never missed an opportunity to sing. Singing was her gift, and she gave that gift freely to the church. We had wonderful times together - weekly lunches after practice, Christmas parties, picnics on Donna's deck, and later on, lunches at Audrey's. Sometimes we went out of town to try new places. And Marilyn loved to shop! She didn't need much for herself, so she bought to give to others - her family and friends. We missed her when she moved to the farm, to be close to her daughter and son. But we are happy she had that time with them. She will always be remembered as one of the 'M's" (Marlyce, Marilyn, Meritta, Marian, Margaret and 'Ma'donna) in the 'Fun. Girls & Jim'. We sang a lot, and talked a lot, and laughed a lot - and our memories of her will always be with us.

Marlyce Bursch - June 12, 2024 at 08:43 PM

AW

“Aunt Marilyn will be greatly missed. Living in Georgia, I didn't get to see her often, but it was always a joy to spend time with her. I have many fond memories of visiting with her and all my cousins at the farm. She was a wealth of information and had encyclopedic knowledge about family history. She had a great sense of humor that I loved and appreciated. We exchanged Christmas cards every year and always included a little note to each other about what was going on in our lives. I'm so thankful for the time we spent and the memories I will hold on to. My thoughts and prayers are with the the St. Germaine's. May God give you comfort. Love, Cousin Amy

Amy Work - June 12, 2024 at 06:10 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Marilyn Faye St. Germain.*



June 12, 2024 at 05:48 PM



“ *I met Marilyn about a year ago, when I started taking Holy Communion to her. We hit it off right away, you see I brought my guitar, and like her, I love to sing. We sang every week, and occasionally we would have another voice and guitar with us. She was so happy when she sang.*

Marilyn talked about the places she had lived. and that they moved to the farm om 4-4-44. How she and John met at a dance, and how happy they were. Marilyn loved her family, andf I heard about all of you. She was so proud of you!

I was blessed to get to know her for a while. My Mondays will never be the same. Thank you for letting me in her life.

Jim Carpenter - June 09, 2024 at 09:24 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Marilyn Faye St. Germain.*



June 05, 2024 at 03:10 PM

MG

“*Ma was a character with a riotous sense of humor who loved nothing more than family dinners & outings so she could show off her huge brood!*

She and John Sr were so warm and welcoming to Joshua Sawyer, Austin, and I when we joined the family. They traveled to our home in Kalamazoo for many birthdays, the birth of Ian St Germain, Max St. Germain, and to White Pigeon for graduations even though the trip was long and uncomfortable.

She loved sewing, crocheting, and shopping. She was the Mrs. Claus of legends and our boys will never forget their giant Christmas sacks or competing for the privilege of growing taller than Nana Marilyn's cotton candy hair.

She and I shared a passion for photography, flowers, yellow houses, and my wonderful husband and sons.

I'm forever grateful to her for bringing my husband into this world.

Rest in peace Ma, we'll see you at the gate. 🥺💕

Melanie St Germain - May 27, 2024 at 12:31 AM